

AUGUST 11, 1978

THIS WEEK NO. 31

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS-----.

NARR:

THERE WERE RENEWED TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST THIS WEEK WITH THE LESSENERD POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE TALKS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND THE RESSURGENCE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY. AFTER TALKS WITH U.S. ENVOY ALFRED ATHERTON ON SUNDAY, PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT SAID EGYPT WILL NOT ATTEND FURTHER PEACE TALKS UNTIL THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AGREES THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE OVER ARAB TERRITORY TAKEN DURING THE 1967 WAR.

THE NEXT DAY, OFFICIALS IN CAIRO STRESSED THAT EGYPT HAS NOT ABANDONED ITS PEACE INITIATIVE DESPITE PRESIDENT SADAT'S STATEMENTS AND IS READY TO RESUME DIRECT TALKS WITH ISRAEL PROVIDED THERE ARE SUBSTANTIVE NEW ELEMENTS TO DISCUSS. LATER IN THE WEEK THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO PROMOTE A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT AND ARAB CRITICS OF HIS PEACE INITIATIVE. PRESIDENT SADAT'S DECISION TO VISIT JERUSALEM MORE THAN EIGHT MONTHS AGO SPARKED A MAJOR RIFT IN THE ARAB WORLD AND LED TO A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC TIES BETWEEN CAIRO AND FIVE ARAB CAPITALS.

HERE IN WASHINGTON, THE STATE DEPARTMENT EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER PRESIDENT SADAT'S STATEMENT THAT THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER TALKS WITH ISRAEL. BUT A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE EGYPTIAN DECISION DID NOT MEAN THE CANCELLATION OF

SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE'S WEEKEND TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- CARTER

"WE ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT EGYPT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS NOTWITHSTANDING, SECRETARY VANCE WILL BE GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST AS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT. THIS OBVIOUSLY INTERJECTS NEW DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WE BELIEVE REQUIRE CLOSE CONSULTATION FOR A FULL EXPLORATION OF PRECISELY WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW."

NARR:

LATER IN THE WEEK SECRETARY VANCE SAID HE WAS GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST TO REVIEW THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND DECIDED WHAT THE NEXT STEPS SHOULD BE. BUT HE ADDED THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO INTRODUCE NEW AMERICAN PROPOSALS. HE SAID THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET THE TWO SIDES TALKING DIRECTLY BECAUSE THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO REACH A PEACE SETTLEMENT. MISTER VANCE ALSO SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT ANYTHING DRAMATIC OR NEW TO COME OUT OF HIS TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OF PRESIDENT SADAT. BUT HE DOES EXPECT TO COME AWAY WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION AND A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

(OPT) IN ISRAEL, REFERRING TO CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S POSITION BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, MISTER BEGIN SAID HIS COUNTRY'S STAND HAS BEGUN TO BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD. HE ADDED THAT FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS NOW THERE HAD BEEN WHAT HE TERMED A TRAVESTY OF TRUTH AND A DISTORTION OF JUSTICE REGARDING HIS PEACE PLAN. MISTER BEGIN ALSO URGED PATIENCE IN THE DAYS AHEAD, SAYING HE IS CONVINCED BETTER DAYS WILL COME, AND ADDING THERE IS NO REASON TO DESPAIR OVER PEACE. (END OPT)

LATER IN THE WEEK U.S. SENATOR JACOB JAVITS SAID PRESIDENT CARTER SHOULD HAVE CANCELLED SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST. HE ADDED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT'S REFUSAL TO RESUME DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND HIS INSISTENCE ON

PRECONDITIONS HAVE MADE THE U.S. MEDIATING ROLE UNNECESSARILY DIFFICULT AND PERHAPS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE TIME BEING.

(OPT) SENATOR JAVITS ALSO SAID SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER MODERATE ARAB NATIONS SHOULD DECLARE THEMSELVES IN FAVOR OF NEGOTIATIONS AND COMPROMISE:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- JAVITS

"I WAS AGAINST SELLING JET AIRCRAFT, WAR AIRCRAFT, TO SAUDI ARABIA. THAT WAS A BIG FIGHT AND PEOPLE OF MY SIDE LOST. NOW, THE ADMINISTRATION ARGUED THE VIRTUE OF SELLING THEM THE JET AIRCRAFT WAS THAT THEY WOULD BE THE MODERATE FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND A GOOD INFLUENCE TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN. I CAN'T SEE IT. FROM ALL WE SEE, IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING THE OTHER WAY."

NARR: (END OPT)

THERE WAS ALSO RENEWED VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST THIS WEEK. A BOMB EXPLOSION IN A TEL AVIV MARKET DISTRICT LEFT ONE PERSON KILLED AND NEARLY FIFTY OTHERS WERE REPORTED INJURED. LESS THAN FIVE HOURS AFTER THE BLAST ISRAELI AIRCRAFT WERE OVER LEBANON BOMBING A MAJOR PALESTINIAN CONCENTRATION SOUTH OF SIDON.

AN OFFICIAL ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE AIR STRIKE WAS IN RETALIATION FOR THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN TEL AVIV. IT ADDED THAT ISRAEL REMAINS DETERMINED TO STRIKE BACK AT THE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS WHEREVER THEY MAY BE. THE ISRAELIS CLAIM THAT THE AREA NORTH OF THE LITANI RIVER IN LEBANON, WHICH WAS BLASTED BY THEIR AIRCRAFT THIS WEEK, IS UNDER THE COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AND THAT THE CAMP IS STRICTLY A MILITARY TRAINING AREA.

THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE RETALIATORY ACTION WAS ORDERED BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT NEITHER THE PRESENCE OF U.N. FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON NOR THAT OF THE SYRIAN FORCES NORTH OF THE LITANI RIVER ARE ABLE TO INHIBIT ISRAEL'S ABILITY TO STRIKE BACK AT THE P.L.O. ANYWHERE IN LEBANON.

RIVALRY BETWEEN DIFFERENT PALESTINIAN FACTIONS AND THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT TURNED TO VIOLENCE IN WESTERN EUROPE THIS WEEK. IN PARIS TWO PERSONS WERE KILLED WHEN FRENCH POLICE ARRESTED A LONE TERRORIST WHO ATTACKED THE IRAQI EMBASSY AND HELD SEVERAL HOSTAGES. THE PARIS INCIDENT WAS APPARENTLY LINKED TO EVENTS LAST WEEK IN LONDON DURING WHICH THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR TO BRITAIN NARROWLY ESCAPED ASSASSINATION. THE LONDON ATTACK WAS BELIEVED TO BE INSPIRED BY OPPOSITION TO THE EXECUTION OF COMMUNISTS IN IRAQ.

LATER IN THE WEEK THE HEAD OF THE P.L.O.'S PARIS MISSION AND ONE OF HIS AIDES WERE KILLED DURING A TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE MISSION. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SLAYING WAS CLAIMED BY AN UNKNOWN GROUP OF PALESTINIANS WHO ALSO CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EARLIER ATTACK ON THE IRAQI EMBASSY. OTHER ATTACKS AGAINST IRAQI OFFICIALS ALSO TOOK PLACE IN KARACHI AND BEIRUT. LATER, THE PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY ACCUSED IRAQ OF STAGING THE ASSASSINATION OF THE P.L.O. REPRESENTATIVE IN PARIS. VOA CORRESPONDENT DOUGLAS ROBERTS EXPLAINS SOME OF THE CAUSES OF THIS LATEST ROUND OF VIOLENCE:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- ROBERTS

"VARIOUS PALESTINIAN FACTIONS ARE CLEARLY INVOLVED IN THE UNDERGROUND WARFARE, THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ HAS BEEN IMPLICATED, AND THERE ARE ENOUGH FREELANCE ARAB GUNMEN TO ADD TO THE CONFUSION. ONE OF THE BASIC QUARRELS IN THIS MANY-SIDED FEUD IS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ AND THE MAINSTREAM FACTION OF THE P.L.O., THE AL FATTAH GUERRILLA GROUP LED BY YASSIR ARAFAT. MISTER ARAFAT'S SUPPORTERS BLAMED IRAQ FOR THE ASSASSINATIONS EARLIER THIS YEAR OF P.L.O. REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON AND KUWAIT AND AL FATTAH IS ALSO LIKELY TO HOLD BAGHDAD RESPONSIBLE FOR THURSDAY'S MURDER OF THE P.L.O. PARIS REPRESENTATIVE. BUT THIS IS ONLY PART OF THE EQUATION. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN CLASHES BETWEEN MISTER ARAFAT'S SUPPORTERS AND PRO-IRAQI PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS IN THREE MAJOR LEBANESE CITIES."

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NARR:

HERE IN WASHINGTON, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIS WEEK JOINED THE SENATE IN AGREEING TO LIFT THE AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. THE VOTE WAS VERY CLOSE AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD TO OVERCOME SUBSTANTIAL SENTIMENT IN THE HOUSE IN FAVOR OF RETAINING THE EMBARGO. THE MEASURE APPROVES LIFTING THE EMBARGO ON CONDITION THAT THE PRESIDENT CERTIFY THAT IT IS IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST TO DO SO AND THAT TURKEY IS MAKING A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN SOLARZ ECHOED THE ADMINISTRATION'S SENTIMENT:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- OLARZ

"THE QUESTION THAT WE HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES TODAY IS WHETHER WE'RE LIKELY TO HAVE MORE INFLUENCE WITH THE TURKS IF WE LIFT THE EMBARGO OR IF WE DON'T. AND AFTER THREE AND A HALF YEARS IT SHOULD BE CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE EMBARGO IS AN OBSTACLE RATHER THAN AN INCENTIVE TO PROGRESS."

NARR:

(OPT) THE HOUSE VOTE TO LIFT THE EMBARGO WAS A HARD FOUGHT VICTORY FOR PRESIDENT CARTER. BUT RATHER THAN CLAIMING CREDIT FOR HIMSELF, THE PRESIDENT PRAISED THE HOUSE FOR BEING STATESMANLIKE AND HE CREDITED THE PARTIES TO THE CYPRUS DISPUTE FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE OUTCOME. MISTER CARTER SAID THAT IN RECENT WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE PROBLEMS AFFECTING RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS. THESE DEVELOPMENTS, SAID THE PRESIDENT, HELPED PRODUCE THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS THAT WILL NOW ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO PUT THE EMBARGO ERA BEHIND IT. (END OPT)

THE REPEAL OF THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO WAS ONLY A SMALL PART OF A MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS BILL THAT ALSO AFFECTS U.S. POLICY ON THE RHODESIAN QUESTION. VOA CORRESPONDENT ROBERT LODGE EXPLAINS:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- LODGE

"HOUSE APPROVAL OF THE AID AUTHORIZATION APPARENTLY PUTS THAT BODY ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE SENATE AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICY ON RHODESIA. CONGRESSMEN APPROVED AN AMENDMENT THAT IF ENACTED WOULD LIFT U.S. TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, UNLESS RHODESIA FAILS TO HOLD FREE ELECTIONS AND INSTALL A NEW GOVERNMENT AFTER ALLOWING ALL FACTIONS TO PARTICIPATE FREELY. THE HOUSE ACTION CONFLICTS WITH THE SENATE PLAN TO MAINTAIN THE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS UNTIL AFTER FREE ELECTIONS ARE HELD, A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHED, AND RHODESIA MAKES A GENUINE EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE WITH ALL FACTION INCLUDING THE GUERRILLAS. THE DIFFERENCES IN THE LEGISLATION MUST BE RESOLVED LATER BY CONFEREES FROM THE HOUSE AND SENATE."

NARR:

IN MOSCOW THIS WEEK A SOVIET COURT LEVIED ANOTHER FINE ON TWO MOSCOW-BASED AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS WHO WERE CONVICTED EARLIER OF LIBELING SOVIET TELEVISION OFFICIALS. VOA CORRESPONDENT MARK HOPKINS HAS DETAILS:

TAPE: CUT SIX -- HOPKINS

"MOSCOW JUDGE LEV ALMAZOV -- THE SAME JUDGE WHO HEARD A LIBEL CASE EARLIER -- LEVIED A FIFTY RUBLE FINE AGAINST NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER CRAIG WHITNEY AND BALTIMORE SUN CORRESPONDENT HAROLD PIPER. THE FINE -- EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS -- WAS APPLIED BECAUSE NEITHER THE CORRESPONDENTS NOR THEIR NEWSPAPERS HAVE COMPLIED WITH THE COURT'S EARLIER DECISIONS. IN THOSE DECISIONS THE NEWSPAPERS WERE ORDERED TO PUBLISH A RETRACTION OF DISPATCHED SUGGESTING THAT A TELEVISED CONFESSION OF A SOVIET DISSIDENT WAS FABRICATED. THE JUDGE FINED THE PAPERS THE EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS."

NARR:

BOTH NEWSPAPERS HAVE SAID THEY WILL PAY THE EARLIER FINES BUT WILL NOT PUBLISH RETRACTIONS. BECAUSE OF THIS THE MOSCOW COURT LEVIED THE NEW FINES. THE TWO CORRESPONDENTS HAVE BEEN COMPELLED TO DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE TIME TO THE LIBEL

ACTION SINCE IT BEGAN SIX WEEKS AGO. LIBEL CASES RARELY ARISE IN THE SOVIET UNION AND MANY OBSERVERS FEEL THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE TRYING TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN REPORTING FROM MOSCOW ALONG OFFICIAL LINES.

(OPT) ANOTHER AMERICAN INVOLVED IN SOVIET LEGAL CHARGES, BUSINESSMAN JAY CRAWFORD, WAS QUESTIONED AGAIN THIS WEEK IN MOSCOW ABOUT ALLEGED ILLEGAL CURRENCY DEALINGS. MISTER CRAWFORD WAS ARRESTED LAST MONTH IN WHAT IS NOW REGARDED AS SOVIET RETALIATION FOR THE AMERICAN ARREST OF TWO ALLEGED SOVIET SPIES ASSIGNED TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK. CRAWFORD'S CASE HAS MOVED HIS EMPLOYER, INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER, TO STOP ALL SALES TO THE SOVIET UNION AND TO ASK OTHER MAJOR AMERICAN FIRMS DOING BUSINESS WITH MOSCOW TO JOIN IN UNSPECIFIED ECONOMIC ACTIONS. (END OPT)

IN THE ECONOMIC FRONT THIS WEEK, THE PRICE OF GOLD SOARED TO RECORD LEVELS ON THE LONDON BULLION EXCHANGE AS THE DOLLAR CONTINUED TO LOSE VALUE. GOLD PRICES HAVE BEEN INCREASING BECAUSE THE METAL IS THE TRADITIONAL REFUGE IN TIMES OF CURRENCY UNREST AND INFLATION. THE DOLLAR HAS BEEN SHRINKING STEADILY IN VALUE AGAINST STRONG CURRENCIES LIKE THE JAPANESE YEN AND THE SWISS FRANC. ECONOMISTS FEEL THE STEADY EROSION OF THE DOLLAR IS DUE TO THE LARGE U.S. DEFICITS IN ITS BALANCE OF TRADE IN CONTRAST TO JAPAN'S STEADY LARGE TRADE SURPLUSES.

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS ----- . JOIN US AGAIN NEXT ----- WHEN THE VOA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

JS/RS/RD